

## CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A method of doing business by encoding, documenting and processing the procedures of alternative healthcare provider treatment, using a computer system having a programmable memory and a central processing unit comprising the steps of:

programming a computer system having a programmable memory and a central processing unit for operating a business;

inputting and encoding a patient pool in the computer system;

inputting and encoding a procedure claim from an alternative health provider for treating a patient in the patient pool;

inputting and encoding a data base of a plurality of alternative healthcare providers to yield an alternative practice type (APT) code to identify the provider;

choosing and retrieving an APT from the APT data base and matching with the provider's procedure claim;

inputting and encoding a database of alternative billing codes (ABC) for each of the plurality of alternative healthcare provider categories to yield a standard alternative billing code (ABC) data base;

choosing and retrieving an ABC from the ABC data base and comparing to the APT for a diagnostic match with the performed procedure;

24 providing a provider data (PD) data base by regional  
25 location based on zip codes;  
26 selecting a provider from the PD data base;  
27 connecting the ABC product codes with a Universal Product  
28 Code (UPC) and a National Drug Code (NDC) for detailed  
29 information, and calculating the cost of the procedure;  
30 generating a specific ABC cost and comparing with a  
31 diagnosis code to form a comparison table of costs for the  
32 procedure; and  
33 sending the comparison table to an insurer or a third party  
34 administrator for payment to the alternative health care  
35 provider.

1           2. A programmed computer assembly for encoding, document-  
2           ing and processing the procedures of alternative healthcare  
3           provider treatment comprising:

4           a computer having a programmable memory and a central  
5           processing unit;

6           a program installed on the computer having:

7           means for inputting and encoding a database of a  
8           plurality of alternative healthcare providers, wherein each is  
9           categorized by an alphanumeric indicia to yield an alternative  
10          practice type (APT) code database;

11          means for inputting and encoding a database of  
12          alternative billing codes (ABC) for each of the plurality of  
13          alternative healthcare providers by an alphanumeric indicia to  
14          yield a standard alternative billing code (ABC) database;

15          means for inputting and encoding a database of  
16          provider data (PD) comprising: (1) each provider's zip code; (2)  
17          each provider's specialty; (3) ABC product codes with any  
18          modifying information; (4) a universal product code (UPC) for  
19          each product and labeled with a UPC; (5) a national drug code  
20          (NDC) for each product labeled with a NDC; (6) calculating an  
21          average fee by provider specialty and region; and (7) generating  
22          specific provider data;

23          means for processing the associated APT code, the  
24          associated ABC code, and the generated the PD code;

25          means for generating an ABC from the associated APT  
code, the associated ABC code, and the generated PD code;

27 means for comparing the generated ABC string by  
28 diagnosis from the International Classification of  
29 Diseases' conventional procedural treatment strings to form  
30 a comparison table; and  
31 means for publishing the comparison table for sending the  
32 comparison results to an alternative health care provider.

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